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SCHOOL BOYS OF BAGDAD

(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Nejd, Whose Sultan Is Warring on Iraq

NEJD is the home of the Wahabis who are reported advancing on Iraq. Ibn Saud, commander of the desert forces and ruler of most of Arabia, is Sultan of Nejd.

Put your finger on the very center of Arabia and you will automatically point out Nejd. (See map following Bulletin No. 5.)

Prohibit Smoking, Drinking and Luxuries

Tremendous desert wastes are not alone responsible for the fact that the outside world is ignorant of the Nejd in the heart of Arabia. That country—if the varying area over which the Nejd nomads roam may be called a country—has one of the most effective exclusion laws known, the exclusion law of the sword. These people do not care to go into the outside world, and they have taken the stand that they want no visits from western traders, diplomats, military experts, or missionaries. They are especially adamant against visits from non-Moslems. They are fanatics on the subject of religious simplicity. As Wahabis they are perhaps better known to the world than as Nejdians, for the former name they owe to their religious associations.

Blue laws have never taken on so deep a tinge of blue as in the land of the Wahabis. To drink or even smoke tobacco is not merely a violation of their strict code; it is a capital offense. It is equally an offense, according to their views, to use rich rugs and fine vessels in Mosques. So fanatical are they that they even look upon other Mohammedans not of their sect as unbelievers unworthy of life.

The Wahabi sect was founded early in the eighteenth century by Abd el Wahab. Feeling that Mohammedanism should have a single god, he was particularly disturbed by the tendency to worship Mohammed as well as Allah. He also found his co-religionists invoking Moslem saints and preached against this practice. After Wahab died his fanatical converts wrecked the elaborate tombs of Moslem teachers and even went so far as to try unsuccessfully to destroy the dome over the tomb of Mohammed at Medina.

Capital of Nejd a Forbidden City

The powerful Wahabi state centering in the interior of Arabia was crushed by combined Egyptian and Turkish forces between 1811 and 1818. Since 1824, however, the sect has been growing quietly. Only the outer shell is held by non-Wahabis.

The capital of the Nejd, Riad, is more truly a forbidden city than is Lhasa. The only westerner known to have visited it in recent years was an American medical missionary, smuggled in that he might save the life of a chieftain; and it is believed that even this errand of mercy would not have saved him from summary execution save for a little group of defenders who for a brief time stretched their standards.

There were a Sultan and an "Acting Sultan" of Nejd for many years, the first an aged patriarch and the second his energetic heir. The young ruler, Ibn Saud, has adhered to the injunction of the Prophet to limit his wives to four, but he has interpreted the limitation to mean 'at one time." He adopted the

© *Photograph from Paul Gooding*

A POLYNESIAN GIRL WHO IS A NATIVE OF TAHITI

Stevenson, who went to the South Seas for his health, grew extravagant when dwelling on the charms of the women of Tahiti. People of pure Polynesian blood are scarce in the South Seas now. Many of the residents on the numerous islands are of mixed blood. The true Polynesian was susceptible to white men's diseases and died off in great numbers even from epidemics of measles (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Creation of Great Smoky Mountains Park Assured by Gift

A RECENT gift of $5,000,000 practically assures the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the southern Appalachians.

Melville Chater has described, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, the region which it is proposed to set aside.

"Night fell as we climbed by mountain roads among forest odors and with the thrill of guessed-at streams in our ears," writes Mr. Chater of a state survey expedition through North Carolina. "At last we alighted at a chaletlike inn amid the curiously mild air of a frost-free thermal belt. Next morning we found ourselves atop the great obelisk of Chimney Rock, whose cottagers are well named the Cliff Dwellers, looking down into the magnificent Hickory Nut Gap.

"A distant speck in the valley represented the slowly rising dam that will inclose an artificial lake 27 miles around. Thus, link by link, a lake system for recreation and as a reserve against drought is being constructed along the streams of western North Carolina.

Where American Forest Conservation Began

"A few hours' drive farther into the mountains brought us to Asheville, the gateway to what North Carolinians have well named the Land of the Sky. Never was an altitude of half a mile above sea-level so unobvious, in all but the tonic atmosphere. Set in a vast bowl, Asheville is encircled by mountains whose twenty highest peaks top all altitudes in the Eastern States. Could the Titans return, they might appropriately seat themselves on the surrounding crests of this mammoth amphitheater as spectators of one of Asheville's big golf or tennis meets.

"It was on the Biltmore estate, near Asheville, that, with the founding of a forestry school, the first steps in American forest conservation were taken.

"To-day there are established in this region, for the protection of watersheds and hardwood reserves, the Cherokee, Nantahala, Unaka, and Pisgah national forests. With a boundary which incloses more than 1,700,000 acres, the Government had acquired up to July, 1925, somewhat less than a fourth of this area. In the Pisgah, established in 1916 as a game preserve, native bear and deer roam, trout streams are stocked, and herds of bison and elk have been implanted.

"Surrounded by the modishness of Asheville, one scarcely realizes that only 50 miles away mountaineers are living a ruggedly simple existence behind hand-hewn timbers and on small 'switchback' farms, with Revolutionary looms and spinning-wheels alongside their chimney pieces of native rock.

Primitive People Sell Handicraft

"It was a far-seeing woman from among the 'boiled-shirt' life of Asheville who persuaded these remote, almost forgotten mountain folk to set their long-idle looms going again. To-day there are half a dozen handicraft centers scattered through western North Carolina.

"A 75-mile stretch of ideal motor-coaching up the foaming course of a river took us past the big paper-pulp and acid-wood plants to the Cherokee Indian Reservation at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains.

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plan of having one chief, "permanent" wife, and of changing the other three every three months. After serving as temporary Sultanas, these wives were bestowed on some favored underling.

Great Britain paid the ruler of the Nejd a huge subsidy until recently—$300,000 a year, an "honorarium" three times as great as the salary and allowance of the President of the United States. The young Sultan has taken the cash and has let his followers go about their forays pretty much as they wished. Great Britain has had to spend much more than the subsidy, it is said, defending the kings of Transjordania and Iraq against Wahabi incursions.

NOTE: The regions affected by the flare-up in Arabia are pictured and described in various issues of the National Geographic Magazine: "A Visit to Three Arab Kingdoms" (Transjordania, Iraq, Hejaz), May, 1923; "Where Adam and Eve Lived," Dec., 1914; "The Rise of a New Arab Nation," Nov., 1919; and "Mecca the Mystic," Aug., 1917.

Bulletin No. 1, April 2, 1928.

© *Photograph by John Clark Archer*

IRRIGATION MECHANICS ON THE TIGRIS

The Mesopotamian *cherad* is one of the most primitive irrigation plants imaginable. Many of the agricultural processes and implements employed in Iraq have been in use for countless generations, but agricultural experiments made by the British within recent years prove that remunerative returns are to be had from the grain-producing areas of the country.

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Too Many Diamonds in South Africa?

DISCOVERY of what may be the world's richest diamond mine in Namaqualand establishes the Union of South Africa more firmly as the chief source for diamonds.

The discovery was made in the arid territory near the mouth of the Orange River in the northwest corner of Cape Colony. Namaqualand, bordering on the Orange River, is the home of the Hottentot. His real name is Nama and his land Namaqualand.

So many new diamond fields have been found in South Africa within the last few years that the colony has been embarrassed by a flood of gems. The product of the Kimberley and other mines has had to share the market with stones from gravel deposits called alluvial workings. Within the last year the government has passed laws checking production in order to sustain world diamond prices at the present level.

South African Production Runs Into Billions

Kimberley has been the greatest single source of diamonds ever uncovered. Since the discovery of its mines fifty years ago, this region has produced close to $900,000,000 worth of the gems. The total production in South Africa, as a whole, is valued at between one and a quarter and one and a half billions.

South America ranks next to Africa as a diamond-producing continent. The leading diamond country is British Guiana, which in recent years has produced $4,000,000 to $5,000,000 worth of the stones annually. Some valuable stones have come from Brazil in the past, but that country does not figure prominently in the annual output. Small quantities of diamonds come from India, Borneo, Australia, Sumatra and the United States. Most United States diamonds are found in Arkansas.

A diamond is crystallized carbon and is made of the same material, essentially, as coal. India led the way in the use of the diamond as a gem. If it were known at all in the west in early times, it was only as a pretty pebble. Greek soldiers, returning from India in 327 B. C., introduced the cut stone into the Mediterranean countries. India was the sole source of diamonds until their discovery in Brazil in 1728. The first South Africa stones were discovered in 1876.

A Diamond That Weighed One and One-third Pounds

The Kohinoor, now among the British crown jewels, is probably the most widely known diamond. It belonged to several Indian rajahs and changed hands a number of times as the booty of war. Finally, it was presented to Queen Victoria by the East India Company. The largest diamond ever discovered was the Cullinan. It originally weighed one and one-third pounds and was as big as a man's fist. It was cut into 1,005 brilliants of various sizes for King Edward VII of England.

The two largest are the "Star of South Africa," weighing 503 1/5 carats, and the "Lesser Star of South Africa," weighing 317 1/3 carats. (A carat is about 3½ grains, troy). They are, respectively, the largest and the next largest cut diamonds in existence.

"In 1540 Ferdinand de Soto found the Cherokees living among the Appalachian range in regions which are now incorporated in eight States. Three centuries later, when the remnants of this once-powerful tribe were transferred to Indian Territory, some few thousands of them took refuge in the Great Smokies. Ultimately, with the Government's cooperation, they settled on their present lands.

"Nowadays there are some 2,600 members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees living under the Great Smokies.

"A four-hour drive up the mountains from Asheville to Linville gave us another glimpse of that 'back of beyond' region which fringes western North Carolina. Here were pioneer cabins miles apart, streams passable by a plank stretched between two tree-forks, occasional covered wagons with rifles slung inside, and dryland sledges being used on 'switchback' farms.

Up in the Land of the Sky

"This is a country steep enough to justify the old joke about the mountaineer who broke his leg by falling out of his cornfield and poor enough to justify that other stock joke about the would-be purchaser of a mountain farm who found thereon the tombstone of the man who had starved while trying to cultivate it.

After a long climb up the valley we reached Linville, one of the oldest and loftiest resorts in the Land of the Sky. Its neighbor and scenic center, Grandfather Mountain, forms the rugged apex of the Blue Ridge. It is but slightly lower than the State's topmost peak, Mount Mitchell, which, at 6,711 feet, overlooks everything east of the Mississippi. Seen from near Linville, western North Carolina unfolds on a vast scale, dipping away in mountains beyond mountains, fainter and yet more impalpable, toward the distant wisps whose hue gives a name to the entire Blue Ridge."

Bulletin No. 2, April 2, 1928.

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A PRODUCT OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Laborers are loading hemlock bark which will find its way to leather factories where it is used in tanning leather. The sledge in the pictu re is a common substitute for a wheeled vehicle in the mountains.

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Polynesia, "The Sixth Continent"

DID POLYNESIA once reach to South America?

An explorer has reported the discovery of a tribe in the wilderness between Bolivia and Brazil who do not resemble the native Indians. They are much more like natives of the South Sea Islands.

The natives who settled the islands of the Pacific are known to have spread eastward. Whether their canoes touched South America science has never determined.

What is Polynesia, and where is it?

Can You Bound Polynesia?

Few geographic terms have been so hammered out of shape as Polynesia.

The "many islands," for that is what the name signifies, make up what has been called a "sixth continent" notable chiefly for its underwater real estate.

Polynesia is as long as North America from Alaska's top to Mexico City and as broad as the United States plus the Atlantic to the Azores. New Zealand is Polynesia's southernmost province, Hawaii its northern boundary, the Marquesas Islands its eastern, and Fiji its western, edge.

If North America sank to its mountain tops in a warm ocean and each projecting peak harbored a colony of fine-bodied, brown-skinned people, it would duplicate roughly the spread of the "state" of Polynesia before the coming of the white man. Yet taken altogether, the islands of Polynesia comprise a land area equal only to the States of Illinois and Wisconsin. New Zealand and Hawaii use up the giant shares, leaving 3,500 square miles to be divided, very democratically indeed, among about 3,000 other islands.

White Men's Diseases Blot Out the Polynesians

Skillful Polynesian sailors in war boats as long as two or three freight cars colonized this vast marine nation. A Maori from New Zealand could readily understand a Hawaiian because a single language united the stalwart Polynesian race. Such a brotherhood of blood and tongue as has been duplicated on no like area of the earth did not, however, prevent the islanders from cooking and eating their neighbors when the occasion offered.

Polynesia prospers, but the Polynesian is disappearing. The fate of the Happar Tribe, whose idyllic existence was chronicled in Melville's "Typee," repeats the sad story of every island. Smallpox caught from white men blotted out half of the Happars. Six months later tuberculosis took all the rest save one old couple. An American explorer five years ago found the pair in their lonely paradise of Typee Vale.

Tahiti, which once supported 150,000 people, to-day has 9,000, not all of whom are natives.

What the South Sea Has Given Civilization

Polynesia, like the African continent, has been divided among the great nations. England owns the most territory. Beside New Zealand, she has acquired Tonga, Cook, British Samoa, Phoenix, Ellice and scattered islands. The

© *Publishers' Photo Service*

HOW KIMBERLEY PREVENTS DIAMOND THEFTS

Many methods of preventing diamond thefts have been devised in South Africa. Besides having barbed wire and charged electric wire fences, mine operators keep close watch on native and white workers. The government aids by requiring all diamonds to be registered and all dealers to be licensed. It has been estimated that nearly 50 per cent of the diamonds taken out in the early days were stolen and sold secretly.

DUES

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Sivas: Where an American School Reopens in the Heart of Turkey

TO FIND Sivas, where Turkey has permitted the reopening of an American school for boys, one must search the map deep in the heart of the Republic.

Sivas is twice as far from Constantinople as Angora. In 1921 it was the capital of Turkey during the brief success of the Greek army.

In fact Sivas might almost be said to be back in the thirteenth century. Angora is the terminus of the only steel highway that penetrates northern Asia Minor. Beyond this outpost of the age of machinery the country is wholly dependent for transportation on the camel and other beasts of burden, operating over roads that are far from good. Sivas lies more than 200 miles east of Angora and more than 100 miles south of the Black Sea.

May Be Some Day the Pittsburgh of Turkey

The city exists, however, in a region that reached a very high state of development long before the smoke of puffing locomotives darkened an Asian landscape, and it is no mean city, as cities go in its part of the world. It is credited with a population of 65,000, and is, therefore, of about the size of Lincoln, Nebraska, or Springfield, Illinois. Sivas is the capital of a "state" or vilayet.

It is situated on a high plateau which is bleak and even frigid in winter when the blasts from the steppes of central Asia swirl around and over the Caucasus and give the region a climate comparable to the snow-swept plains of Russia. But it is by no means a waste country. The grain of the plateaus of the Vilayet of Sivas and the fruits from its valleys help feed the less favored sections of Turkey. It is rich in copper, iron, coal and other valuable minerals, and, if an industrial Turkey ever rises, Sivas may be its Pittsburgh or its Ruhr.

When Rome was the ruling power in the world, Sivas (then Sebasteia) was one of its chief border cities. Armenian kings ruled it for a while, and under the Byzantines it was the second most important city of Asia Minor, being surpassed only by Caesarea to the southwest.

Sivas a Great Name in Days of Old

If in a "union station" for camel caravans in the Bagdad of Harun-al-Rashid's day there was the counterpart of the train-crier of to-day, Sivas must have been often on his lips, for it lies in a strategic position between Bagdad and "points west." A few years later it became the metropolis of the Seljuk Turks' Empire in Asia before they moved westward and captured Constantinople.

When Marco Polo visited the city in the thirteenth century it was one of the show places of the Near East and had a population of about 100,000. At that time the city was noted for its fine rugs and carpets, but now that industry has passed farther west.

When the Seljuks had the seat of their empire in Sivas their architectural arts flourished. The colleges which they built there in the thirteenth century are among the finest remains of Moslem art to be found in Asia Minor.

Perhaps the most despicable act of cruelty ever perpetrated on a sacked city, even in a part of the world where cruel tyrants have been numerous, was

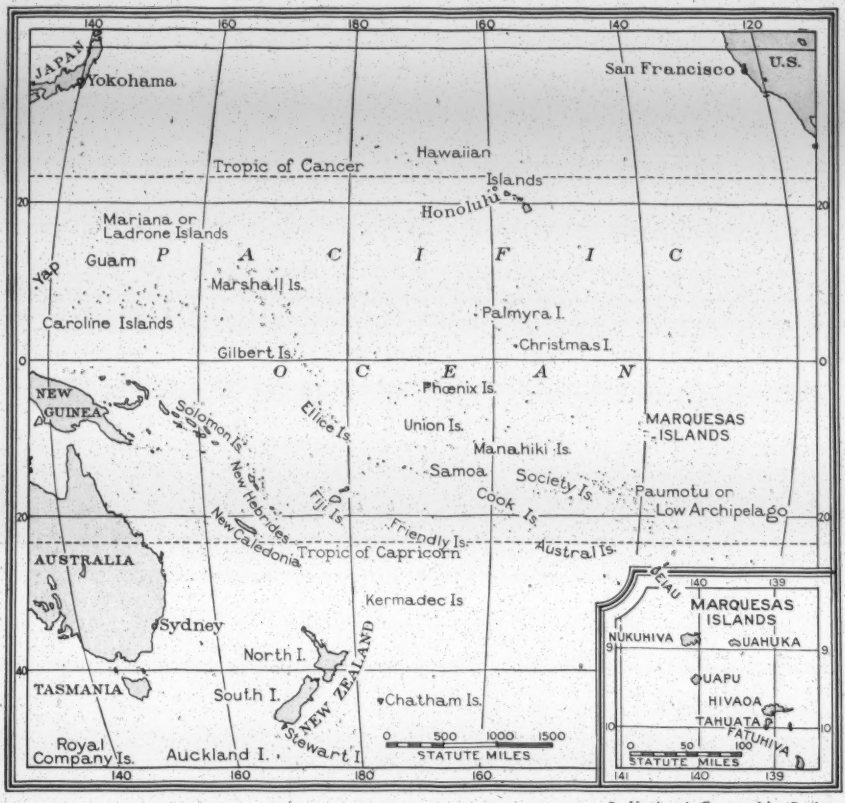
United States commands the Hawaiian Islands, part of Samoa and Guam. The French flag flies over the Society, Austral, Tuamotu and Marquesas Islands.

All Polynesia has a population no larger than that of Kansas. Among the 1,804,000 dwellers scattered through thousands of islands, big and small, over thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean, there are to-day fewer than 100,000 native Polynesians.

This remnant of a great people leaves at least four legacies to a conquering civilization; the belief that life on a South Sea isle is nearest paradise on earth, the word "tabu," the hula hula, and the ukelele.

NOTE: For more extended study of Polynesia see: "The Hawaiian Islands," by Gilbert Grosvenor, Feb., 1924; "Around the World in the 'Islander,'" Jan., 1928; "The Dream Ship," Jan., 1921; "The Islands of the Pacific," Dec., 1921; "The Romance of Science in Polynesia," Oct., 1925; "Tahiti: A Playground of Nature," Oct., 1920; and "Vanishing People of the South Seas," Oct., 1919.

Bulletin No. 4, April 2, 1928.



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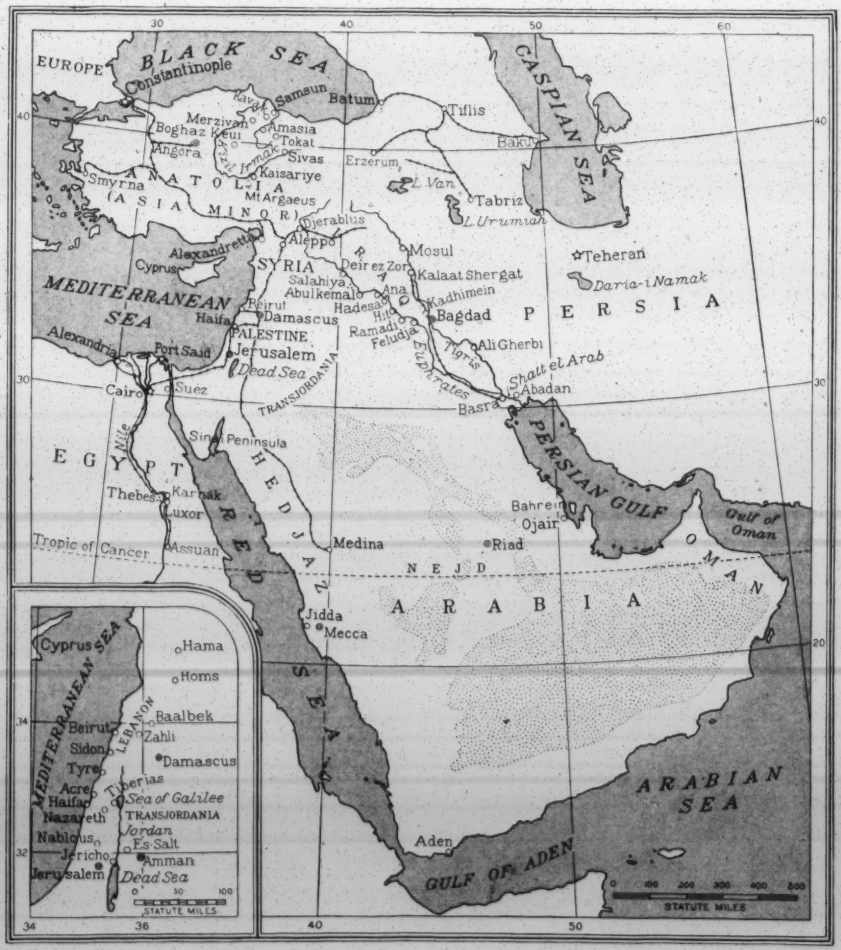
POLYNESIA OCCUPIES THE CENTER OF THIS MAP

The limits of Polynesia are determined by the limits of the Polynesian language and the people who speak or spoke it. The Hawaiian Islands are the northern; Fiji the western; New Zealand, the southern; and the Marquesas Islands, the eastern limits.

inflicted on Sivas in 1400 by the notorious Timur-the-Lame. He caused a thousand children to be trampled to death under the hoofs of his war horses, and followed this monstrous proceeding by having 4,000 of the defeated Armenian defenders of the city buried alive. Since it went through that harrowing experience the city has never risen to a position of any great importance.

Bulletin No. 5, April 2, 1928.



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SCENE OF TROUBLE IN THE NEAR EAST

Forces of the Sultan of Nejd from inner Arabia have raided the border countries of Transjordania and Iraq. Great Britain is assisting in the defense against the Sultan of Nejd. Find also Sivas, in Western Turkey.